

Our Mater eConsultant has received 135 requests for advice to date

A huge thank you to the GPs and stakeholders who have supported the **eConsultant** program and provided feedback.

GPs appreciate the “*straightforward, implementable advice and actions*” and find “*it really helps to educate us and support us*” and avoid playing phone tag with specialists. “*If I refer to the hospital it'll probably be 3, 6 or 12 months, with eConsultant I can have an answer back by the end of the week. That's a no brainer*”

Join our eConsultant case study webinar tonight (add to calendar from the attached invitation)

Who: Dr Narelle Fagermo the Mater eConsultant

When: TONIGHT (Tuesday 29 March) at 6.00-6.30pm.

This will be a great opportunity to learn how eConsultant is being used by your fellow GPs and to ask any questions you have about the program.

Zoom link: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://uqz.zoom.us/j/84252084172>

Or iPhone one-tap (Australia Toll): +61280152088,84252084172#

Or Telephone: Dial: +61 2 8015 2088 Meeting ID: 842 5208 4172

eConsultant Case Study Example

Day 1

Current Problems:

65yo male with newly diagnosed osteoporosis discovered following 3 x vertebral fractures.

This is in the setting of long term carbamazepine for post SAH generalised epilepsy.

Investigations revealed : Vit D 29, low folate. FBC,TFT,ELFT, other haematinics a normal. I am unable to view the BMD from this referral.

Questions

1. should he be considered for an alternative antiepileptic given his osteoporotic crush fractures?
2. Should he remain on Vitamin D and folate indefinitely or just until replaced.

Day 3

Physician responds:

Advised Management Plan.

1. In terms of the osteoporosis, antiseizure medication is a known risk factor for osteoporosis. There appears to be little available data about whether there is a difference between the antiseizure drug classes in terms of OP risk.

1a. To complete OP screen, does he smoke or drink alcohol? these should be ce possible. A celiac screen should be done (given both Vit D and folate deficiency se EPP/urine EPP and free and total testosterone.

1b. Recommend to stay on carbamazepine as all antiepileptics potentially have same effect on bones.

2. He should be on calcium and Vitamin D for bone protection and may need a l dose of Vit D for replacement. Ca/Vit D should be continued indefinitely .

2b. His folate should be also replaced and continued indefinitely.

3. I note also he has a sodium of 124 on the ELFT from October 2020. Would be worth repeating.

Follow-up appointment

GP discusses advice with patient.

Answers to your frequently asked questions regarding eConsultant?

- eConsultant is available for public and private patients
- GPs charge patient at the same rate as would for generating a standard face-to-face OPD referral the physicians time is funded by the Mater
- the eConsultant Request For Advice (RFA) template is auto-populated from the patient record in the practice software
- the exchange between the GP and the Mater eConsultant specialist is via secure messaging both ways
- the model provides a documented record, for both the GP and the Mater, of the eConsultant advice

Areas of medicine covered by RFAs for the general physician eConsultant to date include (but not limited to) general medicine, endocrinology, musculoskeletal, haematology, renal, cardiovascular, hepatology, neurology, respiratory, gastroenterology.

Our Mater eConsultant, Dr Narelle Fagermo is Director of General and Perioperative Medicine and Director of Physician Education at the Mater Adults Hospital in Brisbane and has extensive experience as a hospital-based specialist, reviewing and treating patients with chronic and complex comorbidities.

Top hints for sending an RFA

Include:

1 – 2 targeted questions to orientate Dr Narelle to areas of focus.

As much information as you can about the patient including BMI and BP

Training for new staff or need a refresher

Our eConsultant program is ongoing and we are happy to provide support to get you started – if you or a team member would like refresher training via zoom or phone in the use of eConsultant please send a reply email with preferred dates and times to Dr Jenny Job – j.job@mater.uq.edu.au A Mater eConsultant training video is now available and includes a brief overview of eConsultant and a quick guide to sending an RFA to the Mater eConsultant. Please reply if you would like a copy.

eConsultant in a nutshell

Professor Claire Jackson (CHSRI), Dr Narelle Fagermo (our Mater eConsultant), and Dr Jos (GP, Leichardt Medical, Mt Isa) have shared their experience with eConsultant on a video kindly edited by Paul Stone from WQPHN. You can view the video at:

<https://vimeo.com/441180658/6ece0d4cdd>

Sending attachments with an RFA

If you wish to send correspondence with an eConsultant RFA there is an option to send a second message with only PDF attachments by right clicking on the little “m” symbol in the software taskbar and selecting “create new message (PDF)”.

Our mailing address is:

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<https://medicine-program.uq.edu.au/chsri>

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